to suggest that the robin chats are not part of the general post-breeding south-to-north movement along the coast.

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N.E. and E.M. Baker, Box 23404, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Some observations on Dunlin *Calidris alpina* wintering in the Sudan

Dunlins *Calidris alpina* winter regularly in the Sudan and Ethiopia south to about 13°N (Nikolaus 1987, Ash & Miskell 1981). The wintering population in Sudan has been estimated as 5000–10 000 birds along the Red Sea coast and 3000–6000 birds inland, mainly along the Nile. During 1980–1982, I mist netted 139 Dunlin at the coast near Suakin (19°05N, 37°20E), where the species occurs together with Little Stint *C. minuta*, Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea* and Greater Sandplovers *Charadrius leschenaultii* in small muddy bays in mixed flocks of up to 500 waders. Forty-nine Dunlin were also mist-netted at Khartoum during 1980–1983 along the banks of the White Nile (15°35N, 32°30E). The species was present there with larger numbers of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* in flocks totalling 5000 or more at good sites, especially when water levels were decreasing in autumn and winter.

Measurements

Twenty-four bills were measured on the Red Sea coast during October (Fig.1). Mean bill length was 32.9 mm (range 28–38) but the distribution was bimodal. Assuming that measurements above 35 mm represented females, and those below 35 mm males, it would appear that the sex ratio (male : female) was about 2.5 : 1. Mullie & Meininger (1981) found a similar range of bill lengths and inferred a similar sex ratio in Egypt. The range of bill lengths in Sudan also fits well with what I found for *C. a. alpina* wintering on the German Wadensee (see also Pienkowski & Dick 1975).

Wing-lengths (maximum flattened chord) taken at the two Sudan sites are given in Table 1. They indicate that the inland birds along the Nile are slightly larger, with a mean of 118.8 mm (n = 49) than those on the coast (mean 117.6, n = 139). Unfortunately, bill length was not measured at the Nile site, for a higher percentage of females could be the explanation for the wing-length difference.

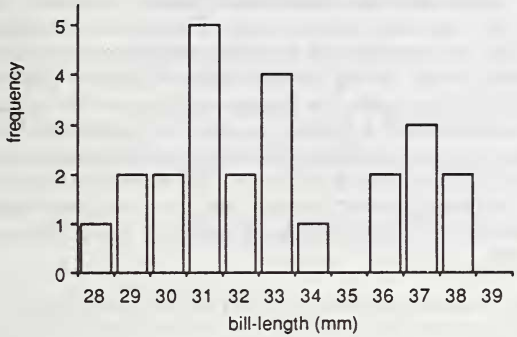

Figure 1. *Frequency distribution of bill-length of Dunlin caught on the Red Sea coast*

Table 1. *Summarized wing-length (mm) of Dunlin listed by month*

Suakin month	*n*	wing-length	range
August 1991	3	115.5	115–116
September 1982	9	117.4	116–121
October 1980	46	117.8	112–123
October 1982	5	119.2	116–124
November 1980	76	117.4	113–123
August–November	139	117.5	112–124
White Nile month	*n*	wing-length	range
November 1982	5	118.4	115–123
December 1980	4	117.8	115–120
December 1982	13	117.3	113–122
January 1983	18	119.8	117–125
March 1983	9	119.6	115–124
November–March	49	118.8	113–125

Weights

Weight data are given in Table 2. Birds caught along the Red Sea from late August to mid November averaged 41.2 g (n = 139), considerably lighter than birds caught along the Nile (mean 45.1 g, n = 49) from mid November to early March. The individuals in both samples were presumed to be in their wintering areas, as the species hardly penetrates any further south in Africa. The higher mean weight on the Nile was not

explained by pre-migratory fattening in March. Nor does it seem likely that it reflects winter fat reserves, for climatic stresses are not expected in January-February in the tropics in the same way that they are in western Europe, for example (Pienkowski, Lloyd & Minton 1979). In other tropical wintering situations, migrant wader weights tend to be, if anything, lower during January–February than in September–October (e.g. Pearson 1981, 1987). So, again, the discrepancy between the coast and the Nile samples could be associated with a higher proportion of larger females in the inland site. However, factors such as availability of food and fresh water, and competition, can play an important role in determining fat levels. The significantly higher weights of Nile birds during the month of January remain intriguing, and cannot easily be linked with migratory movements. They could be a result of availability of fresh water (Klaassen & Ens 1990).

Table 2. *Summarized weight (g) of Dunlin listed by month*

Suakin month	*n*	wing-length	range
August 1991	3	40.7	40–41
September 1982	9	40.0	32–42
October 1980	46	41.3	34–50
October 1982	5	45.3	38–54
November 1980	76	41.0	33–55
August–November	139	41.2	33–55
White Nile month	*n*	wing-length	range
November 1982	5	45.6	37–54
December 1980	4	39.8	39–40
December 1982	13	40.6	36–46
January 1983	18	49.3	43–62
March 1983	9	45.0	41–49
November–March	49	45.1	36–62

Moult

Of three birds (adults) caught during August, one had completed primary moult; two others had scores of 16 on 28 August and 16 on 29 August. All five adult birds caught in September were fully moulted, as were all adults caught from October onwards, except for one with a score of 45 on 5 October. Thus, most birds appeared to arrive during late September and October, after completing their wing moult. Adults still retaining partial breeding plumage were seen and caught up to November, exceptionally to December.

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Gerhard Nikolaus, Bosenbüttel 4, 2859 Spieka, Federal Republic of Germany

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Eurasian Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* in western Kenya

The Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* is an uncommon visitor to Kenya, first recorded as recently as February 1969 (at Ng'iya, western Kenya—Backhurst, Britton & Mann 1973). Britton (1980) lists four further records, from Marsabit, Machakos, Lake Nakuru, and Lokichoggio. A sixth bird was found in Meru in October 1982 (East African Bird Report 1982), and the seventh in the Chyulu Hills on 30 November 1988; this last bird is the most southerly record for East Africa (East African Bird Report 1988). The eighth record is of one seen in the Huri Hills, northern Kenya, on 21 January 1989 (East African Bird Report 1989).

These records are from widely separated areas covering a large part of the country, so it is of interest that we found three birds with 120 km of each other during December 1989 (East African Bird Report 1989). The first bird was at Saiwa Swamp National Park on 9 December. On 12th we found a second along a small thickly wooded stream north of Alupe (0°30N, 34°08E), and on the following day a third was seen in similar habitat at Mungatsi (0°28N, 34°19E).

Whether this was an unusual influx or whether the species occurs more often than the records indicate in the west of the country, remains to be seen.

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